

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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DATE: MARCH 10, 2010
TO: CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
FROM: MELODY CURREY, CHAIRMAN, CRCOG POLICY BOARD
LYLE D. WRAY, PhD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL NO. 5255, AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL MANDATE RELIEF, AND
HOUSE BILL NO. 5338, AN ACT CONCERNING LOCAL PLANS OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is a regional planning organization representing the City of Hartford and the 28 surrounding municipalities. We have served the region for over 30 years and helped them gain significant efficiencies in the spending of taxpayer dollars through cooperative purchasing and other service sharing initiatives.

We are in a fiscal crisis at all levels of government in Connecticut. Our municipalities are struggling with the significant reduction in funding over the last 18 months. Without changes to the way local governments provide services, programs will continue to be cut, professionalism and morale within local governments will suffer, and citizens will pay higher property taxes year after year.

We are pleased that these two bills begin to recognize the importance of mandate relief for municipalities. These two bills will allow municipalities to redirect taxpayer dollars to more efficient and effective means. We offer our support and thanks to legislators for these important first steps. We also encourage you to continue to find ways to provide municipal mandate relief to all municipalities in Connecticut.